

The Parents' Union School,
Ambleside.

Through the kindness of Mr Herbert Bell, of Strawberry Bank, Ambleside, I have been able to get some further information, in addition to that published in Miss Clough's "Life", about her school in Ambleside. Mr Bell's father came as assistant to Dr Fell. A chemist was much needed, and Mr Bell's father started a chemist's business. He lived in Ambleside till his death in 1884. and had a ~~large~~ family of 12 children. (At that time Mr Carter, the poet Wordsworth's secretary, lived at Loughrigg House, and there Dr Fell, Mr Bell, Mr Carter and ~~Dr Hartley Coleridge~~ ^{also} used to meet over their pipes for long talks.) * Mr Bell became President of Miss Martineau's Building Society, and in this connection built Eller How, and to this house Miss Clough and her mother came in 1852.

x (please omit)

Here was started her school and Mr Bell's father built on a school house with an outside flight of steps for it.

1. (To this school went many of the Ambleside children, including Mr Bell, ^{his brother's} and ~~his~~ sisters, Mrs Humphrey Ward, and Mary Newton ^{the daughter} ~~the daughter~~ who was a ward in Chancery for whom Mr Bell was responsible, and in this capacity he was Trustee for her Ambleside property, which included a number of local houses and land.) To Miss Clough's school in 1861 came Miss Healey and her sister. Miss Healey was a college friend of Miss Mason's. When Miss Clough gave up her school in 1862 it was arranged for Mrs Fleming to take it over, and Mr Bell's father was responsible for many of the arrangements. Eller How was bought by Mr Boyle, ^{in 1862} and the

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house is still in the ownership of Mr Harry Boyle, Mr Boyle's son.

2. (^{Miss Healey} ~~Mrs Fleming~~ moved the school to Mr Watson's, ^{had} and from there to Loughrigg View about 1864. Miss Healey herself ^{had} lodged with Mr Watson at the shop where Miss Wearing now lives. Mr Bell was still going to ^{Miss Healey's} the school in 1864 and 1865, ^{when} and Miss Mason came to spend her holidays at Loughrigg View with Miss Healey. Mr Bell remembers being taught by Miss Mason about 1865, for she took occasional classes in the school when she happened to be staying there, though her own work was in Worthing. He remembers a young assistant mistress coming, Miss Robson, "and she", Mr Bell said, "in my childish eyes was ~~very~~ ^{was} tall and fashionably dressed." She stayed a very short time, and probably met Miss Mason while she was there.

Clayton's
School at
Ullers Hill
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The school went on at Loughrigg View until ^{Miss Healey's} ~~Mrs Fleming's~~ marriage to Mr John Fleming, a local architect, in 1868, when they took Fairfield House. Though Mr Bell had by that time gone to school at Kendal, ^{two of} Mr Bell's sisters continued in the school at Fairfield House till ^{1878 or} 1879. In 1879 or 1880 Mrs Fleming moved the school up to Bellevue, a large house standing above Ambleside, now Kirkstone Brow. The school increased, and at the time when I first knew it there were about 40 boarders. Mrs Fleming gave up the school in 1894 and ~~went~~ to live at Rothay Garth, which Mr John Fleming had built for her to retire to. Miss Stirling, the first mistress at Bellevue, went to live with Mrs Fleming, and eventually she took Fairfield ^{House} again and carried on a small

now called Loughrigg House etc.

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school for a short time. Mrs Fleming lived ^{at Rothay, Ambleside} ~~there~~ until the death of Mr John Fleming in when she left Ambleside for a year or two, but came back shortly before her death in 1911.

3. (Mr Bell remembers the visits of Miss Clough to Ambleside after she left in 1862. She used to visit here, both in Grasmere and Ambleside, where she came chiefly to see her friends Mrs and Miss Claude.)

Perhaps it may be well to add to these notes that the House of Education was moved from Springfield to Scale How in January 1895, when all the work was carried on in Scale How and its grounds. Until then the students had done all their work, both as to lectures and in the Practising School, in what was called the Lecture Room, now the Y.M.C.A. buildings, built by Mr John Fleming for the young men of Ambleside, which Miss Mason rented for accommodation for the students during the years 1892 to 1895.

Mrs Claude died in 1873.

4.

Notes and suggestions -

1. To this school went many of the Ambleside children including Mr. Bell, his brothers and sister, Mary Arnold, afterwards Mrs. Humphrey Ward, Dr. Bell's daughters and ^{V.} Mary ~~H.~~ Newton afterwards Mrs. W. D. Hall -
2. Miss Healey moved the school to Mrs. Thomas Watson's, the house now Miss Wearing's shop, in Lake Road, where she and her two sisters, Ada and Alice lodged. About 1864 she moved the school to Longhrigg View, where she could take boarders - Miss Mason came to spend her holidays at Longhrigg View with Miss Healey.
3. Miss Clough used to visit Ambleside after she left in 1862. Sometimes she would stay in lodgings and sometimes with friends. One summer about 1865, she was at Grasmere with Mrs. Arthur H. Clough and her three children - About 1890 she visited Miss Claude at Fisherbeck, and once I remember her staying with Miss Arnold at Fox How.
4. It was Mr. Robert Crewdson of Rydal Mount who built and owned the Lecture Room, though John Fleming had a free hand in planning and arranging it and also had full power over it as long as he lived -
* now called Longhrigg House

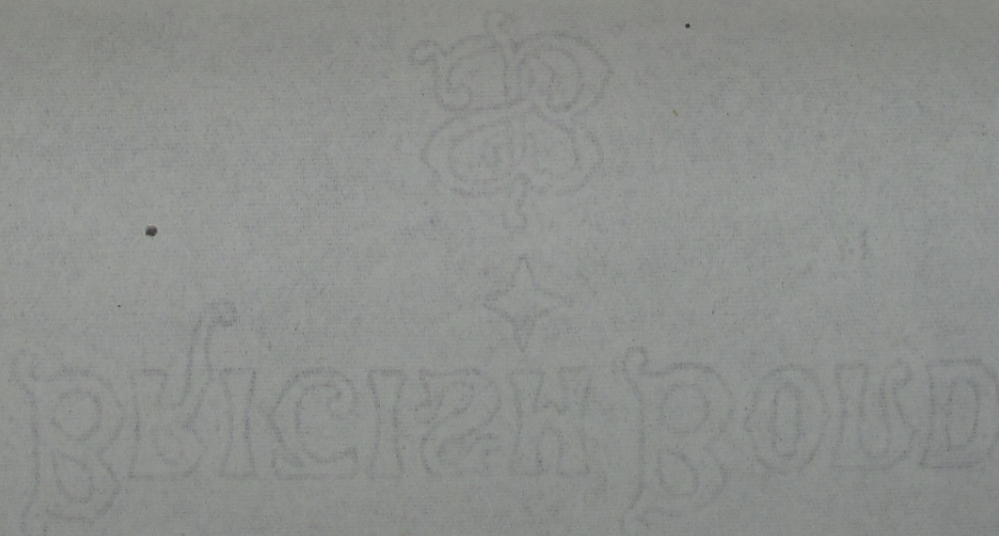
5. It would perhaps be better to omit such things as my father's trusteeship of the Newton property, and the friendly meetings at Mrs. Carter's - These are matters of no public interest and do not touch the subject under consideration -
6. Miss Newton's account of the building of the boys' school and the Wordsworth Library ought to be compared with the account in Miss Clough's Life - I know the latter is more correct as I obtained permission from the School Trustees and copied their minutes for the use of Miss Athena Clough when she was writing the Life -

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